

Visit MeL!



<http://mel.org>

The Michigan eLibrary (MeL) is your 24-hour link to **quality information** on virtually any topic. Vetted by professionals for resources that are **reliable**, **timely** and virtually **free of advertising**, MeL features an **easy-to-use gateway** that allows you to apply search terms across resources of your choice, whether books and audiovisual materials, magazine and newspaper articles, digitized resources, indexes, ebooks, and/or web resources.

The Michigan eLibrary comprises:

1.) The MeL "Best of the Internet" collection of resources by subject

- One of first Internet subject collections (includes nearly 25,000 sites)
- Sites are chosen by professional librarians, with emphasis placed on Michigan

2.) MeL Magazines, Newspapers, eBooks, Practice Tests, and more!

For Michigan residents only: from your library, from your library's Web page or from anywhere else you have an Internet connection (with your driver's license or state ID):

- \$3.6 million worth of electronic resources (more than 40 subscription databases) purchased by the Library of Michigan for Michigan residents
- MeL includes millions of articles from over 45,000 indexed magazines and newspapers (close to 9,000 of which are full text)
- MeL ebook collection consists of 15,000 full text non-fiction titles
- Additional databases include academic and career-prep practice tests, genealogy resources, consumer health information and much more

3.) MeLCat

For Michigan residents only: a catalog of nearly 6 million unique titles and over 10 million holdings (and growing!) from libraries around the state.

- Patrons from participating libraries can borrow books, CDs, and movies from other libraries at no charge
- Fast delivery—most items sent to the patron's library in 2 days
- 79 libraries (16 academic, 58 public, 4 school, 1 special) are currently participating in MeLCat, with an additional 28 joining winter of 2006

4.) MeL Digital Collections

A growing selection of digitized resources including manuscripts, photographs, and more.

- Michigan County Histories are online now at <http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/micounty/>
- Making of Modern Michigan project information can be found at <http://mmm.lib.msu.edu/>

The Michigan eLibrary can help you find the answers!

What do you want to know?

- ✓ How to start a small business in Michigan?
- ✓ Date of the next lunar eclipse?
- ✓ Titles of award-winning children's books?
- ✓ Latest research on skin-cancer treatment?
- ✓ Where to find tax forms?
- ✓ Information about prescription drugs?
- ✓ How to make homemade bubbles?
- ✓ Where to find a job in Michigan?

FAQs About Driver's License Access to MeL

Why do I have to use my driver's license or state ID to use certain parts of MeL?

The Library of Michigan purchased this \$3.6 million collection of resources for exclusive use by Michigan residents. The login process simply provides reasonable assurance to the database providers that the user is a Michigan resident.

What if I don't have a driver's license?

You can use a state ID instead. State IDs are issued at Secretary of State offices for a nominal fee (under \$10). There is no age requirement to get an ID but you must prove you are a Michigan resident. IDs are valid for four years. For more details including required documentation see <http://michigan.gov/sos>.

What about user privacy?

The method used by the Library of Michigan to verify that a user is a Michigan resident does not give us access to any personal or driving record information. The log-on is via a secure

Web server and log-on numbers are not captured or stored.



What about access for children?

Children may use a parent's license number (with permission, of course) or parents may get state IDs for their children. There is no age requirement to get a state ID.

I already get to these resources from home using a password my library gave me. Can I still use that?

Absolutely. All of the former methods for getting to the databases still work.

Are there any resources that I will not have access to from home?

Yes. Ancestry Library Edition is available only from within a library. However, there are many other excellent genealogical resources available from MeL via remote connection.



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